

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 presently are pending in the application. In response to the Final Office Action dated May 19, 2008, the undersigned called Examiner Hoey and asked her to consider whether claim 1 would overcome the rejections if amended to clarify that the sock has a tubular section which has a foot-insert section and further that the sock is a fully completed article which is devoid of any openings other than the foot-insert section.

Examiner Hoey considered the proposal and indicated that such an amendment would overcome the prior art rejections of record. However, she indicated that because the outstanding Office Action was final, it would be necessary to file a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in order to obtain entry of the amendment. Examiner Hoey further indicated that if Applicants filed an RCE, she would conduct a further search with respect to the amendment and would call the undersigned if she uncovers any additional references that she believes require further amendments to the claims.

Accordingly, Applicants are filing the present RCE together with this Rule 114(c) Amendment based on the Examiner's suggestion. Clearly, as recognized by the Examiner, none of the prior art references of record teaches or suggests a sock that is a fully completed article which is devoid of any openings other than the foot-insert section, and further includes a bulge section formed in a middle part of the sole section between the first end and the second end of the toe section.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No.: 10/519,852

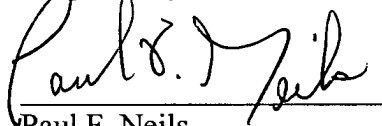
Attorney Docket No.: 03883.0022
Customer Number 57362

Accordingly, the present application should be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there is any issue that could be resolved by a telephone or personal interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such an extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul F. Neils", written over a horizontal line.

Paul F. Neils

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